

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06120 311707Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 311704Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO USINFO WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE
SECSTATE WASHDC 4763
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UNCLAS MADRID 06120

SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE; EUR/RPM
USICA FOR PGM/F

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT

1. MAY 31 MADRID DAILY PRESS GIVES HEAVY COVERAGE TO WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT. ABC (CONSERVATIVE) NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT JOSE MARIA CARRASCAL WRITES: CARTER SHOWED THE BEST OF HIS SMILES AND THE HARDEST OF HIS ORATORY...WITH THIS HARD LINE CARTER WANTS TO IMPRESS HIS COUNTRY, HIS FRIENDS AND HIS ENEMIES. THE WORD HAS SPREAD THAT HE IS A VACILATING, WEAK, AND INEXPERT PRESIDENT, AND THIS, APART FROM EXCITING THE RUSSIANS TO NEW ADVENTURES, IS UNDERMINING HIS POPULARITY AT HOME. PERHAPS THIS REPROACH TO CARTER IS NOT ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED. RATHER THAN A WEAK POLITICIAN, HE IS AN IDEALISTIC POLITICIAN, WHO PREFERS TO DIRECT HIS EFFORTS TOWARD DEVELOPMENT, DISARMAMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS THAN TOWARD CONFRONTATION. THE BAD PART IS THAT NOT EVERYONE SHARES THIS IDEA, AND TODAY HE FINDS HIMSELF OBLIGED TO GO INTO REVERSE."
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2. EL PAIS (INDEPENDENT LIBERAL LEFT): "THE WORDS OF CARTER POINTED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A MODIFICATION IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY, UNDER WHICH AT PRESENT NATO CAN INTERVENE ONLY IN THE DEFENSIVE SPACE OCCUPIED BY ITS MEMBERS...THE LEVEL OF VERBAL DENUNCIATIONS BY THE U.S. AGAINST THE USSR HAD NOT

REACHED SUCH A LEVEL AS NOW IN THE YEAR AND A HALF
CARTER HAS BEEN AT THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN
ADMINISTRATION...THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT SAID
YESTERDAY THAT NATO CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO THE
PRESENCE OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN AFRICA, AND HE
ACCUSED THE USSR AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW
PACT OF INCREASING THEIR ARMED FORCES FAR ABOVE
THEIR 'LEGITIMATE DEFENSIVE NEEDS.'"

3. OTHER MADRID DAILIES REPORT IN SIMILAR VEIN
ON NATO SUMMIT. RYLANCE

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